

Interview Summary

An interview was held with the examiner on April 28, 2010. The undersigned informed the examiner that the applicant was willing to delete the phrase "other cyclic organic anhydrides and acids" from claim 16 , 26 and 27. The examiner agreed that the claim would be allowable with those amendments.

The undersigned discussed with the examiner, however, the applicant's desire to further amend claim 16 as follows, "...applying a pressure of ~~from 1-10 bar~~ 1 bar or more in a pressure step..." It was discussed where the applicant believes there is support for this change. The examiner stated that he would need to consider this proposal in more detail before committing to a position on allowability.

REMARKS

Attached is an amended claim set, in which claim 16 , 26 and 27 are amended as discussed in the interview with the examiner. The claims are believed allowable as agreed.

Alternate, preferred claim set

Also attached hereto is an alternate set of amended claims. This set is the claim amendments preferred by the applicant as discussed in the interview. The applicant requests that the examiner consider this claim amendment. If the examiner concludes that these claims are, at least in principle allowable, then the applicant requests that this claim set be entered in the application or that the applicant be so advised.

If, however, the examiner concludes that the alternate claim set is not allowable, then the applicant requests that the agreed-upon claim set be entered in the application, and a patent be allowed to grant thereupon.

As discussed with the examiner, it is believed that there is support in the specification for the proposed change to the pressure range in the pressure step of claim 16. As mentioned, the upper limit of 10 bar is an arbitrary limit in the sense that a pressure of greater than 10 would also force the solution into the wood. It is believed that one skilled in the art would recognize this fact from the disclosure.

The pressure step is discussed at page 5, line 7 et seq., where three possible scenarios involving pressure are discussed. While scenario "a" mentions a pressure range of from 1-10 bar, neither of the other two mention a specific upper limit for pressure. Furthermore, nothing in the description suggests that 10 bar is a physical limit for the pressure. We believe that one skilled in the art would recognize, based on this teaching, that the pressure step is not necessarily limited to an upper ceiling of 10 bar. Common sense even suggests that if 10 bar will force the solution into the wood, then greater pressure would as well.